

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Fourth Anniversary

OF THE

Shelby Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Six Mile Church,

BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA,

On the 18th, 20th and 21st of September, 1875.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.: . . .

WILLIS AND CHAS. ROBERTS, JOB PRINTERS.

1875.



MINUTES

OF THE

Shelby Missionary Baptist Association.

The Twenty-Fourth Anniversary of the Shelby Association convened with Six Mile church, Bibb county, Alabama, on Saturday the 18th day of September, 1875.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother C. W. O'Hara, from the 35th verse of the 13th chapter of our Lord's Gospel by St. John. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

After a short intermission the delegates assembled in the church and were called to order by former Moderator, Elder T. P. Holcomb. Prayer was offered by Brother R. Owen, sr.

Brethren H. W. Bowers and J. L. Peters were appointed to read.

Letters from the churches were received, read and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See table of statistics.)

Brethren H. W. Bowers and J. L. Peters were appointed tellers, who after having received the vote, reported the former Moderator and Clerk re-elected.

Brethren R. Owen, sr., D. L. Brown, J. W. Dodson, R. Seal and A. H. Johnson, were appointed as a committee to receive and examine a letter from Cahaba Valley Church and report upon the same on Monday morning.

Appointed Committees :

ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISE.—Thornton Fancher and the Deacons of Six Mile church from the 1st District ; Wesley Armstrong and A. H. Johnson, 2nd District.

ON DOCUMENTS.—H. W. Bowers, R. Owen, sr., P. M. Fancher and W. C. Wilder.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—A. H. Johnson, J. L. Peters and Thornton Fancher.

ON FINANCE.—H. W. Bowers and J. L. Peters.

On motion agreed to discontinue our former practice of appointing committees on Temperance and Missions ; also of appointing one to preach a Missionary sermon at our next session.

Adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Benediction by the Clerk.

SUNDAY, Sept. 9.

According to the arrangements of the Committee on Devotional Exercise, Elder T. P. Holcomb preached at 11 o'clock, Joab M. Langston at 2 o'clock, and C. W. O'Hara at night.

MONDAY, Sept. 20.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. On motion, the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

Opened a door for the reception of churches petitioning admittance into this body.

Called the roll and marked absentees. By an act of the District meeting of the 2d District, and by request of Union (Shelby) church, the next session of this Association will be held with her commencing on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in September 1876.

Appointed Brother C. W. O'Hara to preach the Introductory sermon at our next session. J. H. R. Carden, alternate.

Invited visiting members to seats with us.

The committee which was appointed to receive and examine the letter from Cahaba Valley Church, reported that they respectfully recommend that said letter be returned without further consideration; which report was adopted.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Brother P. M. Fancher:

WHEREAS, Cahaba Valley church has failed to represent for two years, and for open communion sentiments, and for the adopting of a resolution in conference, withdrawing herself from this body, and other disorders, therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association withdraw her fellowship from said church.

Adopted.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was received and after some amendment was adopted and the committee was discharged. (See appendix A.)

A Minister's and Deacon's meeting will be held in the 1st District at Dogwood Grove church on Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in October, 1876. One in the 2d District at Mt. Calvary church, on the same day, at which the time and place for the holding of Teacher's and Officer's meeting will be appointed, as recommended by the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Called for correspondence when Elders Joab Langston and Daniel Ward from the Mulberry Association, and D. G. Lyon, mailing and financial agent for the Alabama Baptist,

from the Cahaba Association, came forward and were welcomed among us, the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

Adjourned for one hour during which time Rev. D. G. Lyon preached.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On motion, Rev. D. G. Lyon was called upon to address the Association upon the subjects of his mission, which he did. First, upon the great centennial movement in Alabama for the endowment of Howard College; second, upon our paper, the Alabama Baptist.

The following resolutions were offered by Bro. A. H. Johnson:

Resolved, That the Shelby Association most heartily endorse the centennial movement in Alabama for the endowment of Howard College.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the brethren in our bounds to give for this purpose one dollar for himself and for each member of his family.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the Alabama Baptist and recommend each brother in our bounds to subscribe himself and become its voluntary agent and labor zealously for its circulation.

On motion, a centennial committee was appointed, consisting of one member from each church, to labor in his church to raise a fund to aid in the great centennial movement. The names of the committee are as follows: J. L. Peters, Granville Jones, Thornton Fancher, Peter Smith, James Lucas, H. R. Lyman, A. H. Johnson, Wesley Armstrong, R. Seale, A. A. Sterrett, Nathaniel Thomas, C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Dodson, L. J. Carden and W. C. Wilder.

On motion, agreed to let the names of correspondents, as appointed at our last session, stand as they are, to correspond with the Associations to which they were appointed.

Brother Wm. Lovelady was appointed to fill the vacancy of Brother N. J. Jarvis, on the Executive Committee.

On motion, agreed that at the first Minister's and Deacon's meetings there be Missionaries appointed to labor in each District.

Prayer was offered by Bro. J. W. Dodson, after which the Association adjourned until Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, Sept. 21.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. / Prayer was offered by Brother Peter Smith. Appointed W. V. Arnold, J. L. Peters, and R. Owen, sr., as correspondents to the Tuscaloosa Association, Brother J. L. Peters to write.

The report of the Committee on Finance was received and the Committee was discharged. (See appendix B.)

The report of the Committee on Documents was received and the Committee discharged. (See appendix C.)

The report of the Committee on the State of Religion was received and the Committee discharged. (See appendix D.)

Elder N. J. Norris reported verbally that he had been laboring for about three months as a voluntary missionary, after which a collection was taken up for his benefit.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. A. H. Johnson :

Resolved, That we as christians, feeling that we are the children of our Heavenly Father, will in the future, ourselves and request of our brethren to hold family worship at night, to be called a thanksgiving meeting of families, with those around us, or visiting us or otherwise, at which we will praise God in hymns, and return our thanks for the blessings of the past. And also to join in the morning in asking the blessings of heaven upon us and our friends, neighbors, and brethren scattered abroad.

The district meeting of the 1st district will be held with New Antioch church. Time of meeting not given.

The district meeting for the 2d district will be held with Bethel church, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1876.

Directed that the Clerk superintend the printing of as many of these Minutes as the Minute fund will justify, reserve fifty copies for correspondence, transcribe the present minutes in the Association book, and that he receive the amount sent up for Associational purposes, for his services.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and sisters of Six Mile church, and the surrounding community, for their hospitality manifested to us during the sitting of this body.

After prayer by Brother A. H. Johnson, and the singing of a parting hymn, while the delegates extended to each other and the congregation the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place designated.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS. (Appendix A.)

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report and recommend as follows, to-wit:

1st. The reading of the reports of former committees indicates a stereotyped course as having been pursued by Baptists of this Association, which is to be regretted as it shows a want of interest, which leaves the cause year after year in a repining state, amounting almost to perfect apathy. We are sorry to learn of almost a perfect want of interest in some of the churches which we think amounts to criminality, but which we hope to be greatly remedied ere the next meeting of this body, for which purpose we recommend as follows:

1st. That the fifth Sabbaths occurring during the ensuing year, with the Saturdays before, shall be appropriated to the holding of Minister's and Deacon's meeting in the Association, each district arranging the times and places of its own meeting, which meeting shall be held principally in the interest of Sabbath Schools.

2nd. That a Sabbath School be kept up in each church, and that Baptists organize schools in every place where as many as six children can be gathered together, and that a class be kept up in each school called the Bible class, for the old and young, strangers and visitors.

3rd. That the Deacons of each church be appointed a committee on Sabbath Schools in their neighborhoods.

4th. That collections be taken up monthly in each church and Sabbath School, for the benefit—1st of Sabbath Schools —2nd for Missions.

5th. That a list of members of each church be sent up to the meetings of this body, that they may be better able to appoint committees, etc., on Sabbath Schools.

6th. That the Ministers and Deacons be requested to select and appoint committees of ladies in each church to aid in conducting Sabbath Schools.

7th. That the Sabbath School interest be made a specialty by the Baptists of this Association.

8th. That picnics and other social meetings and gatherings be held during the Spring and Summer months, by the Sabbath Schools and friends of the same.

9th. That the afternoon, on Sabbath of the next session of this body be spent in the interest of Sabbath Schools.

10th. That a teachers and officers meeting, or institute, be held in the month of July, of each year, at some central point in each District, to which all friends of Sabbath Schools be invited.

11th. That where there is not material enough for Baptist Schools, and cannot be had, then that Bible Schools be established for the convenience of all denominations.

A. H. JOHNSON, Chairman.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—(Appendix B.)

We, your committee, beg leave to report:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Amount sent up for Minutes..... | \$15 90 |
| " " " " Associational Purposes..... | 9 20 |
| | |
| Total..... | \$25 40 |
| H. W. BOWERS, { | Committee. |
| J. L. PETERS, | |

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.—(Appendix C.)

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we have examined the letters and documents in our hands, and find that most of the churches still complain of coldness in their midst. But we find a small increase in membership. We are gratified to learn that there has been but few exclusions. But few of the churches report a revival of religion. And very few seem to have taken any interest in Sabbath Schools. We are grieved to learn that the spirit of missions has almost entirely disappeared from among us. Respectfully submitted,

H. W. BOWERS, Chairman.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION. (Appendix D)

Your committee is sorry to report that the spirit of religion is at a low ebb in many localities, which we fear is the result of carelessness on the part of church members. They have failed to read and think for themselves. They have failed to read and think for themselves; they neglect family prayer and prayer meetings. They listen to the erroneous teachings of other denominations, by which they are led to neglect to hold the truth in its purity, which we fear has greatly displeased our Heavenly Father, so that he has permitted the reproaches against one of the churches of Asia to apply to them and they have been blotted out or so nearly so that they are scarcely felt for good at all.

J. W. DODSON, Chirman.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES | PASTORS. | POST OFFICE. | NAMES OF DELEGATES. | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---|-------|----|---|---|---|---|-----|--------|---------|
| | | | Absentees marked 1. Ordained Ministers 2. | | | | | | | | | |
| Dogwood Grove. | T B Diso. | Montervallo | J Lucas, Wm Lovelady, G Walker, J Arnold | 2nd | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 106 | \$1 50 | 156 |
| Enon | J M Langston | Centreville | D E Brown, S Johnson, G Jones, | 2nd | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 38 | 3 50 | 3 50 |
| Montevallo | J S Dil. | Montevallo | H C Reynolds, 1 J W Harris, 1 J W Christopher | 1st | 2 | | | | | 56 | 1 00 | 56 1 00 |
| New Antioch..... | P Smith | " | Peter Smith, 2 and James Booth, 1 | 4th | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 50 | 3 00 | 50 3 00 |
| Six Mile..... | J M Langston | Six Mile | R Owen, Sr., P M Fancher, J L Peters | 1st | 13 | | | | | 17 | 55 | 17 55 |
| Union, Bibb..... | J M Burk | Day's Mill | T Fancher, C Fancher, J Fancher, 1 | 3rd | 4 | | | | | 23 | 1 50 | 23 1 50 |
| Beaver Creek..... | J H R Carden | Columbiana | R Seale, J A Gould, 1 T Q Gould, 1 | 3rd | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 91 | 2 00 | 91 2 00 |
| Bethesda | W W Armstrong | Wilsonville | W W Armstrong, 1 2 J R Tay, J M Taylor | 3rd | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 1 50 | 14 1 50 |
| Bethel | J H R Carden | Columbiana | J H R Carden, 1 2 C W O'Hara, 2 W C Carden | 2 & 4 | 11 | | | | | 14 | | 14 |
| Columbiana..... | | Not Represented | Not Represented | | 17 | | | | | | | |
| Evergreen | W W Armstrong | Columbiana | W W Armstrong, Geo Elliott, M E Jones, | 4th | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | 31 | 2 00 | 31 2 00 |
| Hopewell | T P Holcomb | " | T P Holcomb, 2 W C Wilder, J A Adams, 1 | 1st | 3 | | | | | 91 | 4 00 | 91 4 00 |
| Liberty | W W Armstrong | " | Not Represented | | | | | | | 36 | 2 50 | 36 2 50 |
| Mt. Calvary | L L Brashester | " | J W Dodson, J J Minor, 1 J H Brasher, 1 | 4th | 1 | 2 | | | | 17 | 1 00 | 17 1 00 |
| Salem | L L Brashester | Siluria | A H Johnson, B L Douglas, 1 H W Rogers, | 2nd | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 33 | 3 00 | 33 3 00 |
| Union, Shelby | J H R Carden | | | | | | | | | | | |

NOTE.—The previous total is given of the Churches not represented.

